

Forestry and woodland services at Farrer & Co



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About us

Farrer & Co is synonymous with the highest quality legal advice and service.

We advise individuals, families, businesses, financial services, educational and not-for-profit organisations on every aspect of the law, wherever the need arises. From our offices in London we work with trusted professionals around the world to deliver a seamless international service.

Our clients present us with complex and varied challenges. Whether that's a complicated family trust issue, a multinational corporate transaction, or an emerging threat to their reputation, they need clear thinkers who can advise on the best solutions, fast thinkers when speed is of the essence and agile thinkers who can produce a fresh approach to get the job done.

That's why they choose us.



Jeremy Gordon
Senior Partner

“

The expertise and knowledge displayed in this field of practice combined with extensive practical experience gives confidence that one is receiving the best possible advice and is in very safe hands.”

- Legal 500 2023
Agriculture & Estates

Forestry and woodland services at Farrer & Co

Time is of the essence

Now more than ever sales and purchases of forestry, woodland and afforestation land need to complete swiftly. A deal should not slow down because it reaches a solicitor's desk. We pride ourselves on being quick off the mark. With six partners, ten associates and a knowledge lawyer all dedicated to rural property work, we respond rapidly and deliver major projects within tight timescales. By working in teams on a transaction we ensure that deals are not delayed by days off; there is always someone to take your call and update you on progress.

Making things simple

From farm subsidies to overage, from access issues to employment rights, we have the high-level expertise to spot a potential obstacle early and to overcome it. Commerciality is key. Our whole approach is geared to propelling transactions to exchange and completion without fuss. We do not look for problems where they do not exist.

With forestry and woodland transactions in particular, familiarity with woodland grant schemes, felling licences and understanding access and viability of stacking areas for extraction and Forestry Commission leases may all be important to ensure the transaction can proceed quickly and without delay. We also have the tax expertise to assist with the tax implications of owning woodland whether by individuals or by corporate entities.

Cost effectiveness

By combining partner-level oversight with the use of associates who have the time to dedicate to drive transactions forward, we can provide the best quality work at the best value. For many transactions we agree fixed fees at the outset, to provide certainty quickly, so everyone can concentrate on getting the deal through.

Our aim is to guide our client through the process, to protect their personal position and to ensure that they have the necessary advice to make informed decisions, delivering the optimum outcome for them.

New opportunities

Alongside financial returns from timber, many of our clients manage their woodland with an eye to generating environmental and social value. From setting up renewables schemes and habitat banks, to advising on carbon capture or public access, we have the expertise and experience to enable our clients to make the most of natural capital opportunities and grow recreational business streams.



Public access and liability



Natural capital and environmental schemes



Corporate ownership structures



Trust structures and estate planning



Planning and environmental law



Tax

Recent transactions and key contacts

- Sale of Woodland Estates for c.£4.8m in southwest England and for c.£3.7m in Wiltshire both for a woodland charity.
- Purchase of farm for c.£2.4m including 1,028 acres of land and agricultural buildings (with subsequent sale of farmhouse including necessary access to private water supply) and land earmarked for afforestation.
- Purchase for £1.3m of farmland in Wales with farmhouse, buildings and land (where the land has now been planted out with mixed broadleaf and conifer varieties).
- Setting up a 100 acre Habitat Bank in Hertfordshire for the sale of Biodiversity Net Gain credits.
- Advice in connection with financing of portfolio of forestry/afforestation land (worth more than £100m) for a publicly listed company.
- Advising a Natural Capital start up on the ownership of sequestered carbon in England and Wales.

For further information please contact:



Thomas Kirkman, Partner
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Tom provides pragmatic and commercially rooted advice to both private and institutional landowners on day to day management issues and one off transactional matters affecting their properties.



Edmund Fetherston-Dilke, Partner
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Edmund's practice has grown over many years to include agricultural estates work, residential and commercial property. This breadth of experience benefits clients, many of whom have a wide variety of property interests. His clients vary from institutional land owners, charities, and property companies to individuals and farmers.



Meet the rest of the team



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Complementary services

Property Litigation

Property disputes cannot always be avoided and are sometimes necessary. We approach disputes proactively and strategically to solve them quickly and pragmatically. The team's work includes: contractual interpretation, including development agreements and agreements for sale and purchase; enforcement, removal or modification of restrictive covenants; adverse possession and trespass and rights of way and boundary disputes.



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Planning and environmental

Our investor clients call on us for support in the due diligence process because we can provide commercial and timely advice on planning and environmental issues and risks, including contaminated land. We take a long-term view and we will work with you to devise strategies to protect the development potential of your asset into the future.



Karen Phull, Partner
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Corporate

Farrer & Co's Corporate team has market-leading expertise in complex, high-value transactional and advisory work. We are recognised as being pre-eminent in the private capital sector. Our work includes fundraising and investment, reorganisation and restructuring, joint ventures and private equity.



Jonathan Haley, Partner
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Tax

We advise on all aspects of personal and business tax and work closely with colleagues across the firm to provide comprehensive and joined-up advice to a wide range of investors, businesses, institutions and charities. Our team gives practical, commercial and innovative solutions to complex tax and structure issues which is tailored to your circumstances.



David Gubbay, Partner
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Private Client

We pride ourselves on our ability to bring our collective experience, which has been earned through working with families over many generations while looking after their assets, to create strategic and practical solutions to the issues they face. Our work includes: succession planning, will preparation, tax risk and tax planning and wealth preservation more generally.



Nick Dunnell, Partner
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Employment

Our understanding of employers' businesses, culture and people allows us to act as extensions of their own HR and senior management teams. The strength of the relationships we build is fundamental to the service we provide. Our work for employers includes: drafting contracts and policies, day-to-day advice on employee relations issues, including investigations and dismissals, TUPE transfers and restructures.



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“

Using Farrer makes the difference
between a transaction happening
or not.”

- Chambers and Partners HNW 2019

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